

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 /081 W
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R 290906Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8790
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 5346

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SW, KS
SUBJECT: SWEDISH MFA OFFICIAL ON SOUTH KOREA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SEPTEMBER 24 DCM AND POLITICAL
COUNSELOR HAD LUNCH WITH LEIF LEIFLAND, MFA
DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, WHO RECENTLY
RETURNED FROM EIGHT-DAY VISIT TO SOUTH KOREA (HE
HAD VISITED NORTH KOREA EARLIER THIS YEAR).
LEIFLAND GAVE A FULL ACCOUNT OF HIS TRIP, WHICH
INCLUDED A VISIT TO THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE. HE
BELIEVED THE SITUATION WAS CALM NOW IN THAT AREA,
THANKS TO THE STRONG SHOW OF FORCE BY THE US
MILITARY. READING FROM HIS MEMORANDUM OF
CONVERSATION, HE GAVE A FULL ACCOUNT OF HIS
SEPTEMBER 7 MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER CH'OE
IN WHICH THE SWEDISH CONCERN OVER THE HUMAN RIGHTS
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QUESTIONS WAS ESPECIALLY ADDRESSED. LEIFLAND

SAID CH'OE'S RESPONSE WAS EMOTIONAL AND GAVE NO GROUNDS FOR HOPE THAT THE SITUATION WAS ABOUT TO IMPROVE. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH REGARD TO HIS OVERALL IMPRESSIONS OF THE TRIP, LEIFLAND SAID HE FELT THAT THE SITUATION HAD CALMED DOWN AFTER THE RECENT TREE INCIDENT, THANKS TO THE US SHOW OF FORCE WHICH HE SAID HAD "SCARED HELL OUT OF THE NORTH KOREANS." LEIFLAND SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WAS ANY IMMEDIATE DANGER OF TROUBLE FROM NORTH KOREA. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THE CAVEAT THAT KIM IL-SUNG'S MENTAL BALANCE MIGHT BE SUSPECT, AND IF THAT WAS THE CASE THEN NOBODY COULD PREDICT ACCURATELY WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.

3. LEIFLAND SAID HE FELT THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF HIS TRIP, WHICH HE HOPED THE EMBASSY WOULD REPORT TO WASHINGTON, WAS HIS INTERVENTION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HE HAD REPEATED THE SAME MESSAGE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN BRIEFER FORM, BUT OBVIOUSLY THE MEETING WITH THE PM WAS THE MORE IMPORTANT, AND HE GAVE US A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THIS FROM HIS MEMCON.

4. LEIFLAND MET WITH PRIME MINISTER CH'OE ON SEPTEMBER 7. THEY FIRST DISCUSSED THE KOREAN DEBATE IN THE UNGA, DURING WHICH LEIFLAND INFORMED CH'OE THAT SWEDEN WOULD REPEAT ITS VOTE OF LAST YEAR, I.E., TO SUPPORT THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND ABSTAIN ON THE HOSTILE. (THIS DISCUSSION HAD BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS, LEIFLAND NOTED.)

5. THE SECOND AND MORE INTERESTING TOPIC OF CONVERSATION, LEIFLAND SAID, CONCERNED THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT. LEIFLAND HAD DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE DEEP CONCERN AND UNEASINESS IN SWEDISH PUBLIC OPINION OVER THE MANY VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS OCCURRING IN SOUTH KOREA. THESE VIOLATIONS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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DEFINITELY THREATENING TO DAMAGE THE OTHERWISE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN SWEDEN AND SOUTH KOREA, AND TO DESTROY TOTALLY THE FUND OF GOOD WILL SOUTH KOREA HAD TO SWEDEN.

6. LEIFLAND SAID HE FOCUSED ON TWO CASES: (1) THE IMPRISONMENT OF KIM CHUL, A LEADING FIGURE OF THE UNITED SOCIALIST PARTY; AND (2) THE TRIAL

OF PROFESSOR LEE WOO CHUNG, A FEMALE PROFESSOR
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SEOUL, WHO HAD PARTICIPATED
IN AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION ON MARCH 1
OF THIS YEAR. THE PARTICULAR INTEREST OF SWEDEN
IN THESE CASES WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT KIM CHUL
HAD BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION LAST YEAR TO ATTEND
A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETING IN STOCKHOLM
AND PROFESSOR CHUNG HAD BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO
ATTEND A MEETING IN STOCKHOLM OF A SWEDISH
RELIGIOUS GROUP. SWEDISH PUBLIC CONCERN
OVER VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH KOREA
HAD BEEN NO SECRET TO THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT.
PALME HAD CABLED A STRONG PROTEST TO SEOUL AT
THE TIME OF SEVERAL EXECUTIONS IN 1974.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 5346

7. THE PRIME MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO LEIFLAND'S
STATEMENT CONTAINED NO SURPRISES. IN A LONG AND
OFTEN EMOTIONAL MONOLOGUE, CH'OE SAID THAT THE

SWEDISH PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT SOUTH KOREA DOES NOT LIVE IN A PROTECTED CORNER OF THE WORLD AS DOES SWEDEN. SOUTH KOREA CANNOT AFFORD INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES SINCE IT IS FACED BY THE IMMEDIATE AND DEADLY THREAT FROM KIM IL-SUNG. HE SAID FURTHER THAT SOUTH KOREA IS INDEED CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS. HE ASKED LEIFLAND, "WHAT ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH KOREA?" CH'OE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS NO AUTHORITY OR DESIRE TO MEDDLE WITH THE PROCESSES OF THE SOUTH KOREAN COURTS. SOUTH KOREAN JUDGES ARE HIGHLY QUALIFIED, HE SAID. CH'OE ENDED HIS STATEMENT WITH A QUESTION TO LEIFLAND, "ISN'T WHAT YOU'RE DOING MEDDLING IN INTERNAL CONFIDENTIAL

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SOUTH KOREAN AFFAIRS?"

8. LEIFLAND RESPONDED THAT SWEDEN IS CONCERNED OVER VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. HE SAID THESE MATTERS HAVE NO NATIONAL BORDERS AND HE REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE CHAPTER OF THE UN CHARTER. HE SAID IT WOULD BE UNREASONABLE FOR HIM NOT TO TAKE IT UP WITH THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT SINCE IT WAS THE ONLY IRRITANT IN SWEDISH-SOUTH KOREAN RELATIONS. LEIFLAND ASKED CH'OE IF A SWEDISH EMBASSY OFFICER COULD SEE KIM CHUL, TO WHICH CH'OE SAID THE MATTER MUST BE REFERRED TO "COMPETENT AUTHORITIES." (LEIFLAND SAID HE MEANT PRESIDENT PAK CHONG-HUI). CH'OE SAID THE SWEDISH EMBASSY WOULD BE INFORMED OF THE POSSIBILITY IN DUE TIME. NO ANSWER HAS BEEN RECEIVED YET.

9. LEIFLAND SAID THAT HE AND THE PRIME MINISTER HAD A PLEASANT LUNCHEON SEVERAL DAYS LATER AND THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WAS NOT MENTIONED ON THAT OCCASION. SMITH

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